

REMARKS

The Examiner in the Official Action has rejected claims 1, 3-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steensma in view of Anderson. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As set forth in Claim 1, the input device designates a region of interest within the representative image that includes a visual representation of the individual, and enters an authorization signature by the individual with respect to the photo release. The designation of the region of interest causes a first visual indicator that an authorization signature is required from the individual to be displayed on the display device. As illustrated in Fig. 3, as just one possible example, the first indicator includes highlighting the entire area of interest that includes the visual representation of the individual and providing a text message "Need Signature". The receipt of the authorization signature causes a second visual indicator that the authorization signature has been obtained to be displayed on the display device. As set forth in claims 15 and 16, the second visual indicator is preferably associated with the region of interest, for example, by highlighting at least a portion of the area of interest. Again referring to Fig. 3, as just one possible example, an upper left-hand portion of the area of interest is left highlighted to indicate that individual has provided the authorization signature.

The Examiner cites Steensma as disclosing the association of an authorization signature with a picture, and relies on Anderson to illustrate that the display picture and picture property storing the database can be illustrated on a display. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Anderson fails to teach or suggest anything which would render the claims in this case prima facie obvious as required under 35 U.S.C. §103. In particular, the passage that the Examiner relies upon, column 5, lines 2-12 merely sets forth that a plurality of cells are displayed on the camera; wherein each cell displays a thumbnail of one of the digital images captured. Thus, what is illustrated is simply an index of the images that have been captured by the digital camera, and a particular image is framed by a selection rectangle to show selection of the entire image thereof.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in either reference of providing the claimed first and second indicators set forth in the independent claims. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion of providing the features

found in the dependent claims, including but not limited to, the association of the second indicator with the area of interest as set forth in claim 14, the highlighting of a portion of the area of interest as required in claim 15 or the display of both the release and the area of interest concurrently on the display as set forth in claim 16.

Applicant has added new claims 17-19 to further claim the features of the disclosed invention. Claim 17 requires that entry of the authorization signature causes a visual indicator to be displayed on the display device that indicates the authorization signature has been obtained, and which distinguishes the visual representation of the individual from which an authorization signature has been obtained from visual representations of individuals from which authorization signatures have not been obtained. As illustrated in Fig. 3, display screen 70, this enables one to immediately identify which individual within a group of individuals illustrated in the photo have provided their authorization signature.

Again, while Steensma discloses the concept of enabling an authorization signature to be associated with a photo and stored, there is nothing in Steensma to suggest the use of the visual indicator as claimed. As stated above, Anderson merely discloses providing a highlight frame around an index image. There is no suggestion in Anderson of providing a visual indicator as claimed that distinguishes which individual within a plurality of individuals in the image have provided their authorization signatures.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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